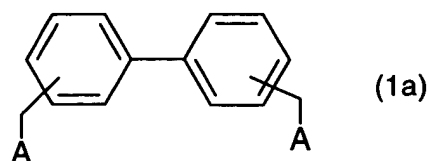
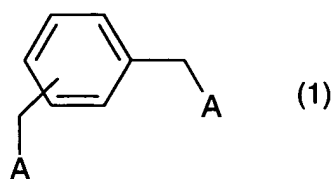
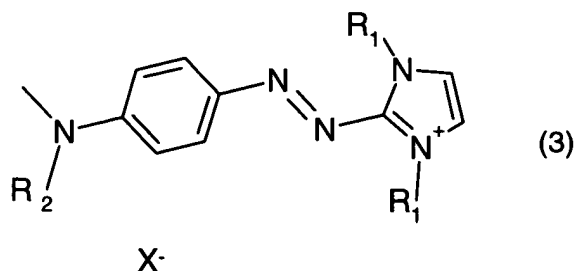
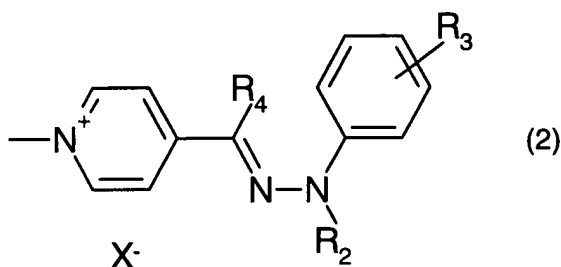


1. (currently amended): Cationic dye of formula (1) or (1a)



wherein

A is an organic radical of formula (2) or (3)



wherein

R₁ and R₂ are each independently of the other unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₁₄alkyl or an aryl radical,

R₃ is hydrogen, unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₁₄alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₁₄alkoxy, ~~cyan or halogenid~~ cyano or halide,

R₄ is hydrogen, unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₁₄alkyl or an aryl radical,

and

X⁻ is an anion.

2. (currently amended): Cationic dye according to claim 1, wherein

R₁ and R₂ are each independently of the other unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₆alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted benzyl,

R₃ is hydrogen, unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₆alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₆alkoxy, ~~cyan or chlorid~~ cyano or chloride,

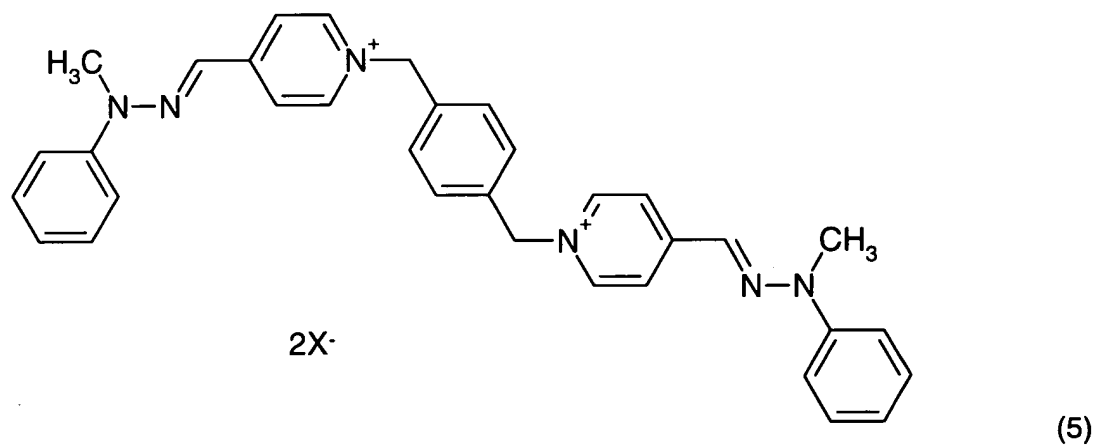
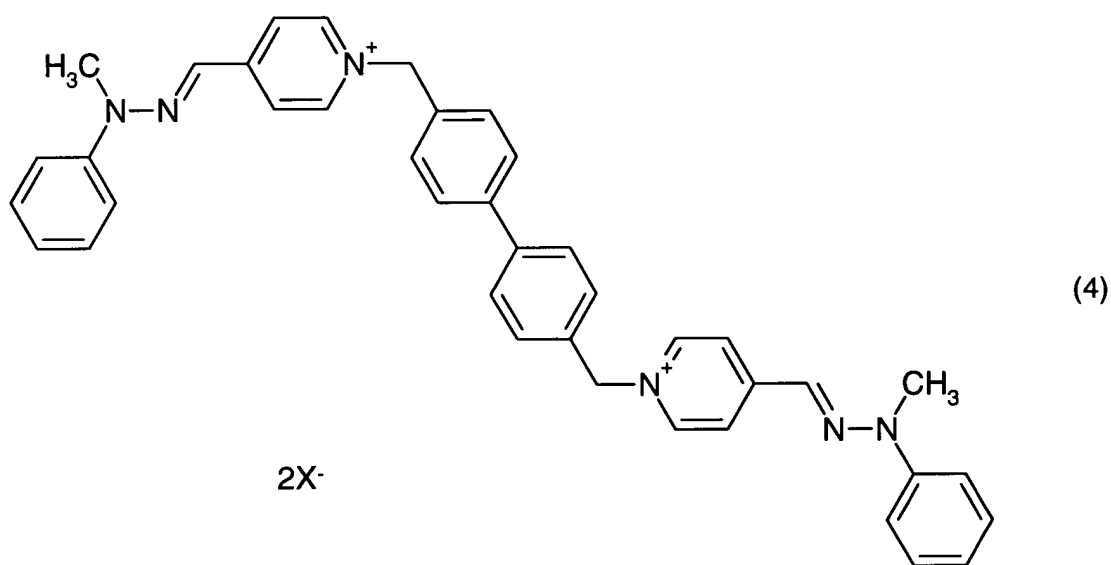
R₄ is hydrogen, unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₆alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted benzyl,

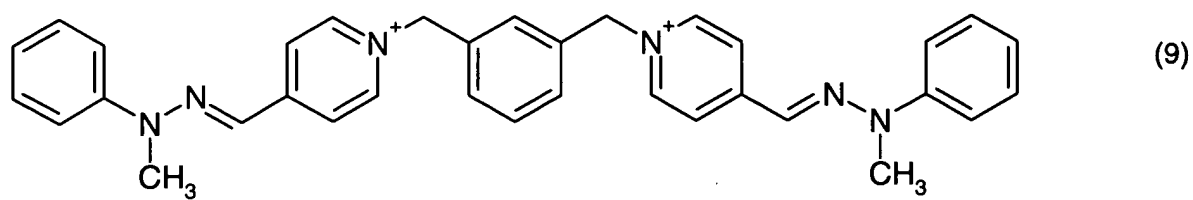
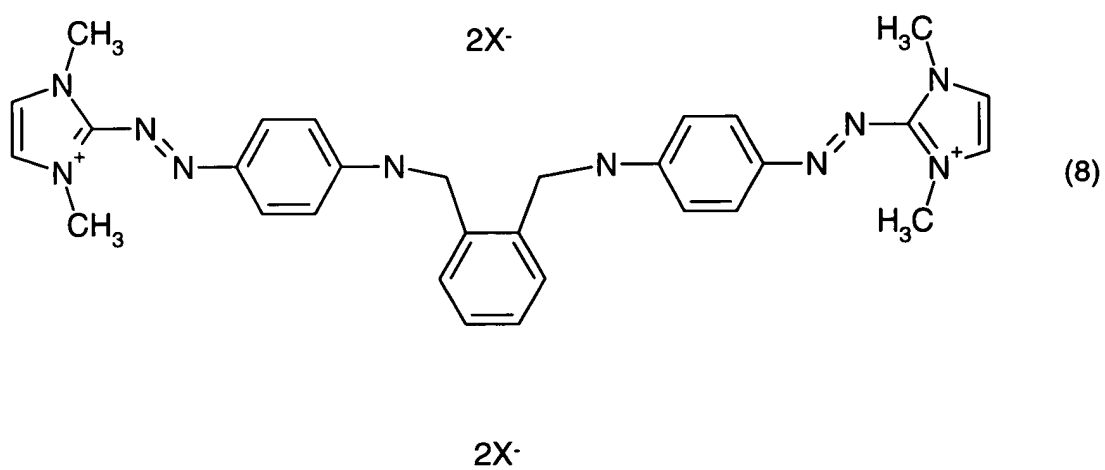
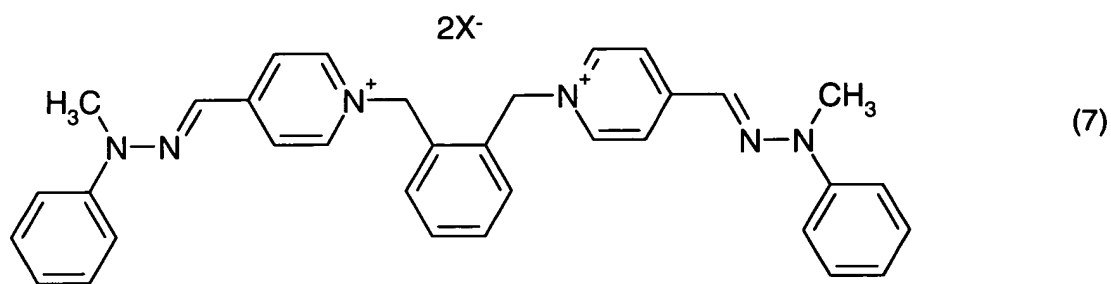
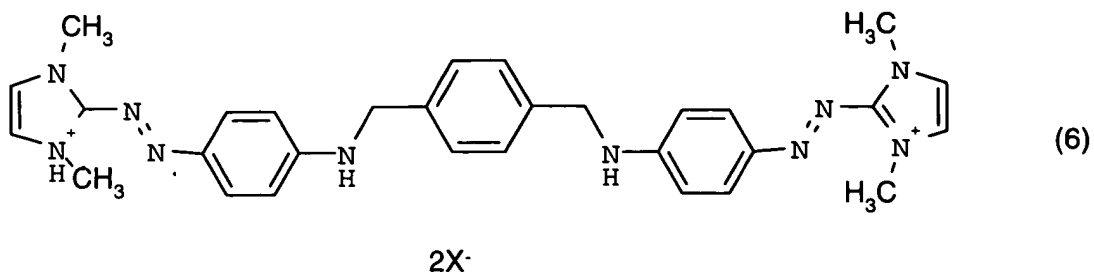
and

X⁻ is an anion.

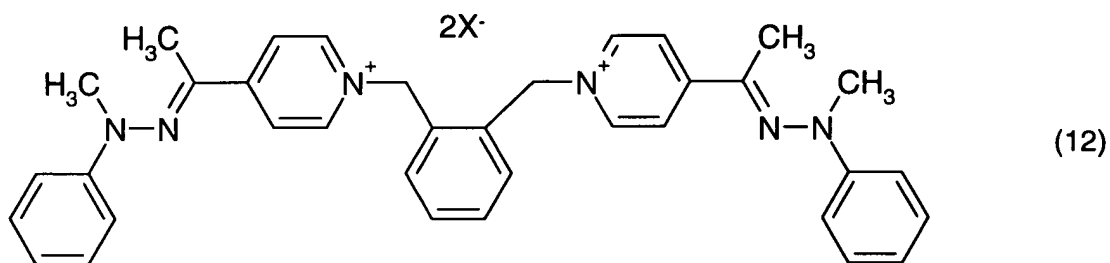
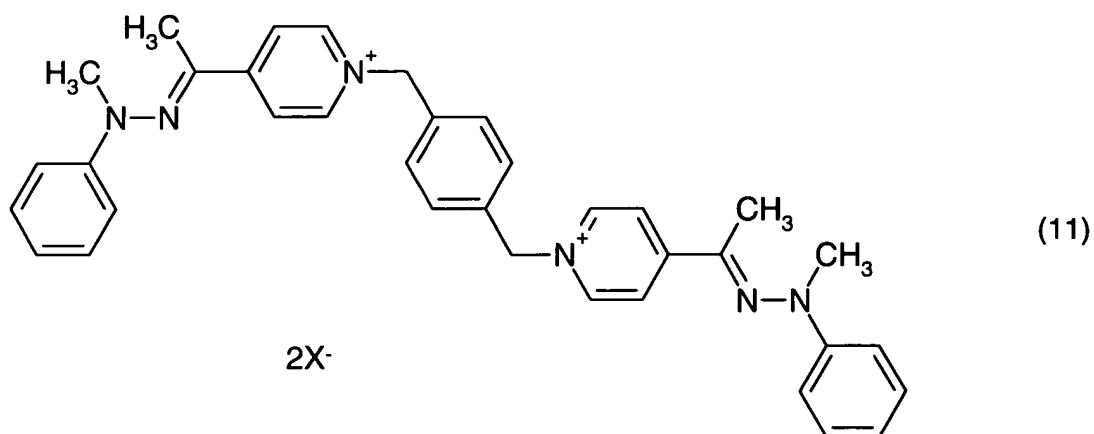
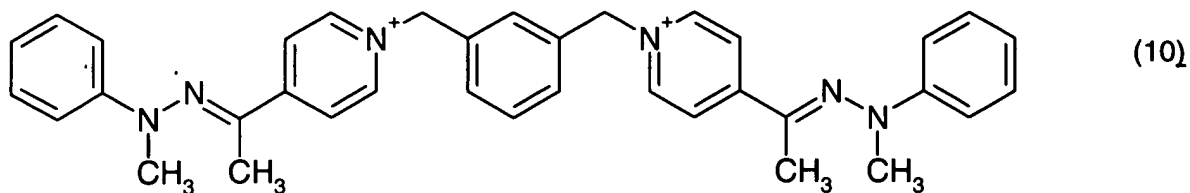
3. (currently amended): Cationic dye according to ~~anyone of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein
 R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other unsubstituted or substituted C_1 - C_6 alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted benzyl,
 R_3 is hydrogen,
 R_4 is hydrogen, unsubstituted or substituted C_1 - C_6 alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted benzyl,
 and
 X^- is an anion.

4. (currently amended): Cationic dye according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 of formula (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11) or (12)





2X⁻

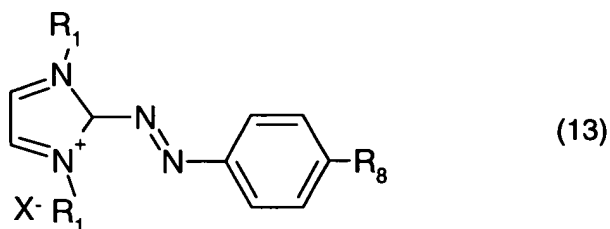


wherein

X⁻ is an anion.

5. (currently amended): Cationic dye according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 4~~ claim 1, wherein the anion is halide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, phosphate, boron tetrafluoride, carbonate, bicarbonate, oxalate, C₁-C₈alkyl sulfate, lactate, formate, acetate, propionate or a complex anion.

6. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of cationic dyes according to claim 1, which comprises reacting a compound of formula (13),



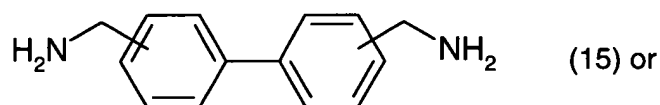
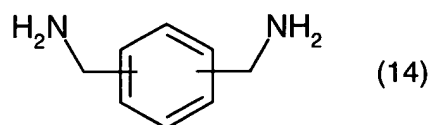
wherein

R_1 is an unsubstituted or substituted C_1 - C_{14} alkyl or an aryl radical,

R_8 is C_1 - C_6 alkoxy or halide, preferred halides are chloride or fluoride, and

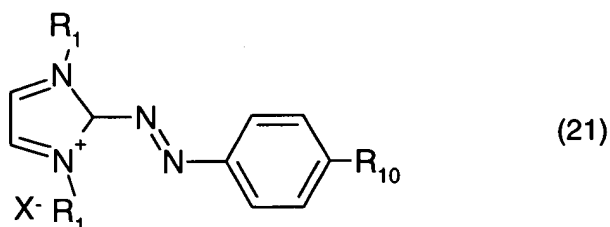
X^- is an anion,

with a compound of formula (14) or (15)



or

reacting a compound of formula (21),



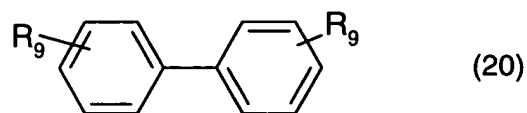
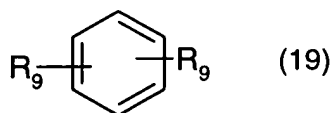
wherein

R_1 is an unsubstituted or substituted C_1 - C_{14} alkyl or an aryl radical,

R_{10} is $-NH_2$, and

X^- is an anion,

with a compound of formula (19) or (20)

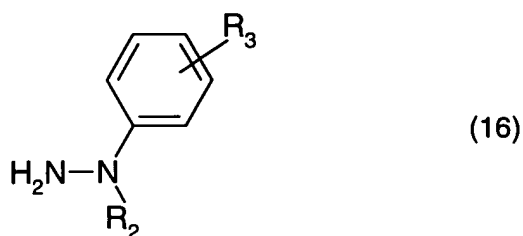


wherein

R₉ is C₁-C₆alkoxy or halide.

7. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a cationic dye according to claim 1, which comprises

a) reacting a phenylhydrazine of formula (16),

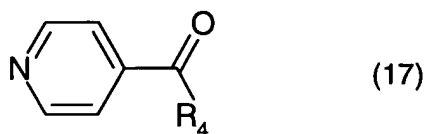


wherein

R₂ is an unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₁₄alkyl or an aryl radical, and

R₃ is hydrogen, unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₁₄alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₁₄alkoxy, ~~cyan or halogenid~~ cyano or halide,

with a 4-pyridine acyl compound of formula (17)

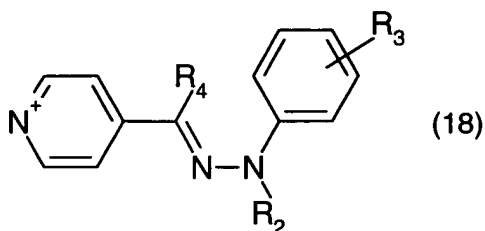


wherein

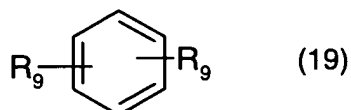
R₄ is hydrogen, unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₁₄alkyl or an aryl radical;

in the presence of an acid, ~~and~~

to form a ~~hydrazon~~ hydrazone of formula (18),



b) and then, reacting the ~~hydrazon~~ hydrazone of formula (18) with a compound of formula (19) or (20)



wherein

R₉ is C₁-C₆alkoxy or halide, ~~preferred halides are chloride, bromide or fluoride.~~

8. (currently amended): A composition comprising at least a single cationic dye of formula (1) and/or (1a) as defined ~~above in claim 1, or prepared by a process according to anyone of claims 6 und 7.~~

9. (original): A composition according to claim 8 comprising in addition at least a single further direct dye and/or an oxidative agent.

10. (currently amended): A composition according to ~~anyone of claims 8 and 9~~ claim 8 comprising in addition at least a single oxidative dye and/or; at least a single oxidative dye and an oxidative agent.

11. (currently amended): A composition according to ~~anyone of claims~~ claim 8, 9 or 10 in the form of a shampoo, gel or emulsion.

12. (currently amended): A method of dyeing organic material, that comprises bringing into contact with the organic material at least a single a cationic dye of formula (1) and/or (1a) according to ~~claims 1 to 5, or a composition according to claims 8 to 11, or a cationic dye as prepared according to claims 6 and 7~~ claim 1, and, optionally, a further dye.

13. (currently amended): A method according to claim 12 ~~for~~ which comprises dyeing or tinting human hair.

14. (currently amended): A method for dyeing human hair or strands according to ~~anyone claims 12 or~~ claim 13, that comprises contacting the hair with at least a single a cationic dye of formula (1) and/or (1a) ~~as defined in claim 1~~ and an oxidative agent and, optionally, a further direct dye.

15. (currently amended): A method for dyeing human hair according to ~~anyone of claims 12 to claim~~ claim 14, that comprises contacting the hair with at least a single a cationic dye of formula (1) and/or (1a) ~~as~~

~~defined in claim 1~~ and at least a single oxidative dye; or contacting the hair with a cationic dye of (1) and/or (1a) ~~as defined in claim 1~~ and at least a single oxidative dye and an oxidative agent.

16. (currently amended): A method for dyeing human hair according to ~~any one of claims 12 to claim~~ 15, that comprises contacting the hair

a) with at least a single cationic dye of formula (1) and/or (1a) ~~as defined in claim 1~~ and with at least a single developer compound, coupler compound and oxidizing agent, and

b) then, contacting the hair with an acid and optionally with at least a single cationic dye of formula (1) and/or (1a) ~~as defined in claim 1~~ and/or at least a single developer compound, coupler compound and/or at least a single oxidizing agent.

17. (currently amended): A method according to claim 12 ~~for~~ which comprises dyeing ~~of~~ paper.

18. (new): A method of dyeing organic material, that comprises bringing into contact with the organic material a composition according to claim 8, and, optionally, a further dye.